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EXAMINER

LEON, EDWIN A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 07/16/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/619,535

Applicant(s)

SCHRIEFER, TAVIS D.

Examiner

Edwin A. León

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 7-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/04, 7/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-5, 7-8, 10, 12-14 and 19-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Reichle (U.S. Patent No. 6,116,958). With regard to Claim 1, Reichle discloses a connector comprising: a first connector head (1) having an axis; a second (half of 2 that contains 5) connector head; and a connection mechanism (3) coupling the first connector head (1) and the second (half of 2 that contains 5) connector head, wherein the connection mechanism (3) is adapted to limit the motion of the second (half of 2 that contains 5) connector head in a first plane substantially coincident with the axis and in a second (half of 2 that contains 5) plane substantially orthogonal to the axis. See Figs. 1-8.

With regard to Claim 2, Reichle discloses the connection mechanism (3) being further adapted to retain the second (half of 2 that contains 5) connector head in a specified position in the first plane. See Figs. 1-8.

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With regard to Claim 3, Reichle discloses the connection mechanism (3) being further adapted to retain the second (half of 2 that contains 5) connector head in a second specified position in the second plane. See Figs. 1-8.

With regard to Claim 4, Reichle discloses the first connector head (1) being further adapted to rotate about the axis. See Figs. 1-8.

With regard to Claim 5, Reichle discloses a third (half of 2 that contains 6) connector head coupled to the connection mechanism (3), the connection mechanism (3) adapted to limit motion of the third (half of 2 that contains 6) connector head to the first and second planes. See Figs. 1-8.

With regard to Claim 7, Reichle discloses the second (half of 2 that contains 5) and third (half of 2 that contains 6) connector heads being adapted to move in concert. See Figs. 1-8.

With regard to Claim 8, Reichle discloses the third (half of 2 that contains 6) connector head comprising a device slot (6). See Figs. 1-8.

With regard to Claim 10, Reichle discloses the third (half of 2 that contains 6) connector head comprising an electronic device (2). See Figs. 1-8.

With regard to Claim 12, Reichle discloses the second (half of 2 that contains 5) connector head and the electronic device (2) being adapted to move in concert. See Figs. 1-8.

With regard to Claim 13, Reichle discloses the second (half of 2 that contains 5) connector head comprising a cable (Fig. 1). See Figs. 1-8.

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With regard to Claim 14, Reichle discloses the first connector head (1) being fixedly coupled to an electronic device (2). See Figs. 1-8.

With regard to Claim 19, Reichle discloses the first connector head (1) and the second (half of 2 that contains 5) connector head comprising different connector head styles. See Figs. 1-8.

With regard to Claim 20, Reichle discloses the first connector head (1) comprising a different connector head style from at least one of the second (half of 2 that contains 5) and third (half of 2 that contains 6) connector heads. See Figs. 1-8.

With regard to Claim 21, Reichle discloses the connection mechanism (3) being further adapted to comprise means (Column 2, Lines 42-47) for implementing a hub function between the first connector head (1) and the second (half of 2 that contains 5) and third (half of 2 that contains 6) connector heads. See Figs. 1-8.

With regard to Claim 22, Reichle discloses the first connector head (1) being further adapted to rotate about the axis and the second (half of 2 that contains 5) connector head being fixedly oriented in the second plane substantially orthogonal to the axis. See Figs. 1-8.

With regard to Claim 23, Reichle discloses the second (half of 2 that contains 5) connector head comprising an electronic device (2). See Figs. 1-8.

With regard to Claim 24, Reichle discloses the electronic device (2) comprising an electronic memory device (2). See Figs. 1-8.

With regard to Claim 25, Reichle discloses an apparatus comprising: a functional unit (2); a connector head (1) having an axis; and means (3) for coupling the functional

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unit (2) and the connector head (1), wherein the means (3) is adapted to limit the motion of the functional unit (2) in a first plane substantially coincident with the axis and in a second plane substantially orthogonal to the axis. See Figs. 1-8.

With regard to Claim 26, Reichle discloses the functional unit (2) comprising an electronic device (2). See Figs. 1-8.

With regard to Claim 27, Reichle discloses the electronic device (2) comprising an electronic memory device (2). See Figs. 1-8.

With regard to Claim 28, Reichle discloses the means (3) being further adapted to rotate about the axis. See Figs. 1-8.

With regard to Claim 29, Reichle discloses a second (half of 2 that contains 5) connector head wherein the means (3) being further adapted to limit motion of the second (half of 2 that contains 5) connector head to the first and second planes. See Figs. 1-8.

With regard to Claim 30, Reichle discloses the functional unit (2) and the second (half of 2 that contains 5) connector head being adapted to move independent of each other. See Figs. 1-8.

With regard to Claim 31, Reichle discloses the functional unit (2) and the second (half of 2 that contains 5) connector head being adapted to move in concert. See Figs. 1-8.

With regard to Claim 32, Reichle discloses the means (3) being further adapted to rotate about the axis. See Figs. 1-8.

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With regard to Claim 33, Reichle discloses the connector head (1) and the second (half of 2 that contains 5) connector head comprising the same connector head style. See Figs. 1-8.

With regard to Claim 34, Reichle discloses a system comprising: an electronic device (2) having an external surface (outside 2); and a connector (1) having a first surface (outside 1) substantially flush with the external surface (outside 2), the connector (1) operatively coupled to the electronic device (2) and adapted to rotate in a plane parallel to the external surface (outside 2). See Figs. 1-8.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which the subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 9, 11, 15-18 and 35-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reichle (U.S. Patent No. 6,116,958) in view of Stout et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,394,813). Reichler discloses the claimed invention as shown above except for the device slot comprising a device slot consisting of Universal Serial Bus, the electronic device comprises a device consisting of Universal Serial Bus, the portable electronic device consisting of personal computer electronic devices, the electronic device comprising a portable electronic device, the portable electronic device comprises

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a personal computer, the first connector head is fixedly coupled to a corner of the portable electronic device, the electronic device comprising a personal computer, the personal computer comprises a portable personal computer, the connector comprises a Universal Serial Bus connector and the connector comprises a connector selected from the group consisting of FireWire, BlueTooth, video and RS232 connectors.

Stout et al. discloses a similar connector (10) having device slot (12) comprising a device slot (12) consisting of Universal Serial Bus (12), the electronic device (10) comprises a device (12) consisting of Universal Serial Bus (12), the portable electronic device (10) consisting of personal computer electronic devices (10), the electronic device (10) comprising a portable electronic device (10), the portable electronic device (10) comprises a personal computer (10), the first connector head (18) is fixedly coupled to a corner of the portable electronic device (10), the electronic device (10) comprising a personal computer (10), the personal computer (10) comprises a portable personal computer (10), the connector (12) comprises a Universal Serial Bus connector (12) and the connector (12) comprises a connector (12) selected from the group consisting of FireWire, BlueTooth, video and RS232 connectors. See Figs. 1-6.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the connector of Reichler by including a device slot comprising a device slot consisting of Universal Serial Bus, the electronic device comprises a device consisting of Universal Serial Bus, the portable electronic device consisting of personal computer electronic devices, the electronic device comprising a portable electronic device, the portable electronic device comprises a personal



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computer, the first connector head is fixedly coupled to a corner of the portable electronic device, the electronic device comprising a personal computer, the personal computer comprises a portable personal computer, the connector comprises a Universal Serial Bus connector and the connector comprises a connector selected from the group consisting of FireWire, BlueTooth, video and RS232 connectors as taught in Stout et al. in order to allow the connector to be used with host devices making it more versatile.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

5. Claim 6 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

However, the references fail to teach, disclose, or suggest, either alone or in combination, the second and third connector heads being adapted to move independent of each other and in combination with the rest of the limitations of the independent and intermediate claims.

### ***Conclusion***

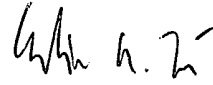
6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Enriquez, Sr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,544,069), Bair et al. (U.S.


Patent No. 6,758,689), Liao (U.S. Patent No. 6,544,075) and Ikeda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,273,734) disclose connectors having connector heads and connection mechanisms to limit the motion of the connector heads.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin A. León whose telephone number is (571) 272-2008. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 10:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800, extension 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Edwin A. Leon  
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Primary Examiner

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July 10, 2004